

## **OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **City Public Works Department To Resurface Selected Downtown Streets**

***Efforts aimed at improving traffic flow***

**(Houston, Texas)**---City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department Director Tom Rolan announced today that selected Downtown area streets will be resurfaced with new asphalt. The work is scheduled to begin Saturday, September 15, 2001 and, barring inclement weather, should be completed by October 24, 2001. The resurfacing project was scheduled for this time frame to coincide with the completion of work on Fannin and Louisiana Streets by METRO. The project will provide improved westward travel ways to complement the new north/south streets.

The streets will be completed as follows:

Walker from Austin to Bagby  
Lamar from Main to Bagby  
Capitol from Austin to Bagby

The project will be performed by a City contractor between the hours of 7 PM and 5 AM during weekdays and during the day and evening hours on weekends. Crews will work weekends as well as weekday evenings and use 9,800 tons of asphalt to complete the 7.25 lane miles of the \$890,000 project. Work will begin on Walker Street, and then move temporarily to Lamar Street to prevent interfering with either the Italian Festival or the Caribbean Festival. One side of the street will be completed and then work crews will switch to the other side of the street. All lanes will be open and normal traffic flow will be maintained during weekday daylight hours. Parking will be restricted in the areas where the work is being performed. Illegally parked vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.

Resurfacing a street involves scraping off the top three or four inches of old asphalt and re-applying new asphalt to the surface. The process smoothes and repairs the street and reduces further damage to the road base. The average useful life of a resurfacing project is five to seven years.

Rolan commented, "We are pleased to provide these improvements in the Downtown area. The new street surfaces will greatly enhance mobility in the area while we complete the Downtown infrastructure improvements."

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